

NOTES TO THE HORSE TRIALS GEAR INSPECTOR

To be read in conjunction with the current Horse Trials NZPCA Rules and Regulations

1. Gear Inspectors must have a current NZPCA Horse Trials rule book in their possession and be conversant with the rules.
2. Conditions of entry will state the dress code to be worn at any competition as agreed to by the organising committee of that competition.
3. Dress and Saddlery will be inspected before each test and will take place at the time and place as stated in the printed programme. After being passed no change will be made. (The exception is NZPCA Championships).
4. It is the responsibility of the rider to make sure that his/her gear has been inspected to the satisfaction of the Gear Inspector before starting. Failure to do so will entail elimination.
5. Gear Inspector to tick (✓) box for pass or cross (X) for fail. If the Gear Inspector has a concern about an item of dress or equipment, please refer the item in question to the TD for a decision.
6. Competitors with unsafe or forbidden gear will replace it.
7. Rider must be rechecked by the Gear Inspector so the replaced item(s) in question can be passed.
8. Leave time for recheck. Use a contrasting pen for recheck.

HELMET

HELMETS - For all tests a medium protection safety helmet **MUST** be worn. The helmet must include a retaining harness secured to the shell at more than two points and secured with a chinstrap which is properly adjusted and fastened meeting one of the following standards: PAS 015, BSEN 1384, EN 1384, AS/NZS 3838 or ASTM F1163. Rider must dismount and remove helmet for inspection.

DRESS

DRESS - For the Dressage test at Area trials and Championships a riding jacket with collar and tie or white or pale coloured hunting stock must be worn.

For other events; In the Dressage and Show-jumping phases, a riding jacket with collar and tie or white or pale coloured hunting or formal Pony Club uniform in Club/Branch colours may be worn. For the Cross Country phase a long sleeved sweatshirt, rugby shirt or jersey must be worn, preferably in Club/Branch colours.

- * Back protectors must be worn for the XC test at all levels.
- * Wearing of medical armbands with riders medical card for jumping tests.
- * Correct back or armband number must be worn.

HAIR - The wearing of a strong hairnet or plaited pigtails for competitors with long hair is compulsory.

FOOTWEAR - For all Pony Club competitions*, jodphur boots (black or brown), long riding boots (being black or brown) or (black boots with brown tops) or two piece boots* (black or brown) must be worn. If two piece boots are worn, they must be plain dress leather or full grain leather with no added adornments. Both pieces must be matching.

- * The top half of the two piece boots are known as gaiters and sometimes referred to as chapettes or ½ chaps.
- * A gaiter is defined as a piece of leather from below the knee down to the ankle.
- * Gaiters, chapettes or ½ chaps made of cloth or suede are **NOT** permitted.

JEWELLERY - Ear-rings, ear-studs and any exposed jewellery must be removed or taped. Tongue studs must be removed.

WHIPS - For the Dressage test at Training, Area Trials and Championship level, a whip is not allowed. At Introductory and Pre Training level a whip no longer than 100cm for ponies and 120cm for hacks (including the length of the flapper/lash) may be carried.

For the Cross Country and Show Jumping tests a whip not exceeding 75cm (including flapper/lash) may be carried at all levels. The whip must have a flapper adequate to prevent the end of the whip injuring the horse. The overall length of whip including flapper must not exceed 75cm.

SPURS - must be of smooth metal, and have a shank pointing towards the rear which must be no more than 3.5cm long and without rowels. The end must be blunt and incapable of wounding a horse. If a shank is curved the spurs must be worn with the shank directed downwards.

SAFETY

SAFETY is of paramount importance. Checklist -

1. Helmet correctly fitted.
2. Stitching/buckles particularly on reins, stirrup leathers and girths.
3. Condition of stirrup leathers - the holes and wear.
4. Stirrup irons sound and correct size.
5. Stirrup bars down.

SADDLERY

SADDLE and STIRRUPS - Dressage test - plain saddle and in the interests of safety the stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside the flap. There must be no other restriction or attachment of any kind. Breast plates are permitted.

For the Cross-country and Show-jumping tests, the saddlery may be changed with the following exceptions:

- * Blinkers or hoods of any - kind.
- * Martingales, (other than a running Martingale with stoppers), side or running reins are forbidden.

In the interest of safety the stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside the flap. There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind. Where a surcingle is used it must be ensured that it does not restrict the release of the stirrup leathers from the bars.

- * Toe-stoppers are permitted.
- * Horse/pony to wear an ID Tag at all times whilst at the NZPCA Horse Trials Championship venue.

BANDAGES - All bandages in the cross-country phase must be stitched to the satisfaction of the Gear Inspector. Boots with velcro fastenings are not required to be stitched.

BRIDLE and BITS - For the **Dressage** test an ordinary snaffle bridle. The bit in manufactured condition without any additional covering to or on any part. Provided the mouth piece is smooth, the following types of snaffles are permitted:

- (i) Ordinary snaffle with double jointed mouthpiece
- (ii) Ordinary snaffle with jointed mouthpiece
- (iii) D-Rind or Racing snaffle (Not permitted as part of double bridle)
- (iv) Egg-Butt Snaffle
 - (a) with cheeks (Tom Thumb)
 - (b) without cheeks
- (v) Other type of snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)
- (vi) Snaffle with upper cheeks only
- (vii) Rubber, leather or plastic snaffle (unjointed)
- (viii) Rubber, leather or plastic snaffle
- (ix) Hanging cheek snaffle
- (x) Ordinary snaffle with double jointed mouthpiece with lozenge
- (xi) Ordinary snaffle with double jointed mouthpiece
- (xii) Unjointed wavy plastic or rubber snaffle (not steel)
 - (a) without cheeks
 - (b) with cheek
- (xiii) Halfmoon or Mullen Mouth snaffle
- (xiv) Straight Bar Snaffle
- (xv) Ordinary snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.

(Refer to Eventing NZ Rule Book for illustrations of permitted snaffle bits.)
A Dr. Bristol bit, i.e. where the link-plate is long, flat & set at an angle, is **NOT** classed as an ordinary snaffle.

Vulcanite, rubber, leather and nylon bits are permissible in Dressage tests provided they comply with the above.

A dropped, flash or grackle (crossed) noseband may be used only with a snaffle bridle. Check for wear and tear and stitching.

Cross country and show jumping tests: Gags or bitless bridles are allowed. Halters of any type, made from rope or other material, are not allowed. (N.B. The use of a Market Harborough is prohibited in all phases). All reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle.